

Amendments to the claims:

Please cancel claims 1 to 8 and add new claims 9 to 16:

Claims 1-8 (canceled)

Claim 9. (New) An iodine preparation composition suitable for use on wounds comprising an iodide source, an oxidant and a buffer characterized in that the iodide is held separately from the oxidant until the point of use, and that the buffer is capable of maintaining the pH of the composition at between pH 4.5 and pH 6 so that when the iodide source and the oxidant are combined, iodine is generated at a physiologically acceptable dose and rate.

Claim 10. (New) The iodine composition as claimed in claim 9 characterized in that the composition is capable of generating from  $5\mu\text{g}$  of iodine per g of composition per hour to  $1500\mu\text{g}$  of iodine per g of composition per hour.

Claim 11. (New) The iodine composition as claimed in claim 10 characterized in that the composition is capable of generating  $100\mu\text{g}$  of iodine per g of composition per hour.

Claim 12. (New) The iodine composition as claimed in claim 10 formulated to generate the said levels of iodine over a period of three days.

Claim 13. (New) The iodine composition as claimed in claim 9 wherein the pH of the composition is maintained between about 5.4 and 5.8.

Claim 14. (New) The iodine composition as claimed in claim 9 which includes from 0.2% to 2% by weight of iodide.

Claim 15. (New) A method of treating a wound comprising applying to said wound an effective wound treating amount of an iodine preparation composition as claimed in claim 9.

Claim 16. (New) A method of treating sepsis in wounds comprising applying to said wound an effective sepsis treating amount of an iodine preparation composition as claimed in claim 9.